

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN SCOTT MENDENHALL**, on March 2, 2005 at 3:30 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Scott Mendenhall, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Bernie Olson, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Elsie Arntzen (R)  
Rep. John Balyeat (R)  
Rep. Bob Bergren (D)  
Rep. George Golie (D)  
Rep. Larry Jent (D)  
Rep. Jim Keane (D)  
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)  
Rep. Bruce Malcolm (R)

##### **Members Excused:**

Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Kyanne Kelly, Committee Secretary  
Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 757, 2/23/2005; SB 39,  
2/23/2005; SB 45, 2/23/2005; SB 79,  
2/23/2005  
Executive Action: SB 79

**HEARING ON SB 79**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**SEN. JOSEPH (JOE) TROPILA (D), SD 13**, opened the hearing on **SB 79**, Two free sets of license plates for disabled veterans.  
00:01:32

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:02:19 George Poston, Disabled American Veterans  
00:03:03 Jim Jacobson, US Army Retired-American Legion  
00:03:47 Steve Combes, Disabled American Veterans  
00:04:29 Dean Roberts, Motor Vehicle Division  
00:04:49 Roger Hagen, National Guard of Montana

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:05:57

**HEARING ON SB 39**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**SEN. JEFF MANGAN (D), SD 12**, opened the hearing on **SB 39**, Clarify application of motor vehicle laws to wheelchairs.  
00:06:18

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:11:12 Anita Rossman, Montana Advocacy Program  
[EXHIBIT\(trh46a01\)](#)  
00:16:49 Gary Trescot, Self  
00:20:07 Dean Roberts, Motor Vehicle Division  
00:20:44 June Hermanson, Montanans for Equal Access

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:22:31

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:26:19

**HEARING ON HB 757**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

REP. LLEW JONES (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 757,  
Revolving loan account for rehabilitation of railroad branch  
lines.

00:28:31

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:35:08 REP. JOHN WITT, HD 28, CARTER

00:39:05 SEN. JERRY BLACK, SD 14, SHELBY

00:43:42 Richard Owen, Montana Grain Growers Association

00:46:46 Mike Halligan, Washington Corporation

00:50:09 Jim Curry, Department of Transportation

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:54:38

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:17:13

**HEARING ON SB 45**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

SEN. DAN HARRINGTON (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on SB 45,  
Uniform statutes of limitation for motor fuel assessments.

01:20:45

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:21:42 Jim Curry, Department of Transportation

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:23:44

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:34:50

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 79

Motion: REP. GOLIE moved that SB 79 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

01:35:53

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. REPS LINDEEN, BERGREN, AND BALLYEAT voted by proxy. REP. MacLAREN will carry.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:10 P.M.

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REP. SCOTT MENDENHALL, Chairman

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KYANNE KELLY, Secretary

SM/kk

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([trh46aad0.PDF](#))**